

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [57] with the following amended paragraph:

[0057] The storage platform 300 of the present invention may provide a variety of services 328 to application programs, including a synchronization service 330 that facilitates the sharing of data among users or systems. For example, the synchronization service 330 may enable interoperability with other data stores ~~340~~ 350 having the same format as data store 302, as well as access to data stores ~~342~~ 352 having other formats. The storage platform 300 also provides file system capabilities that allow interoperability of the universal data store 302 with existing file systems, such as the Windows NTFS files system 318.